

INSIDE TODAY

U.S. NEWS

SAVING GITMO



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, accompanied by fellow House and Senate Republicans, including House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, right, gestures during a news conference on the House steps on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 1, 2009, to draw attention to their opposition of President Obama's budget.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS

SPORTS NEWS

SUPER DEFENSE



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard answers questions from members of the media after he was presented with the award for basketball's NBA defensive player of the year in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, April 21, 2009. Howard led the NBA averaging 13.8 rebounds and 2.92 blocked shots per game.

See Sports Today



**Price of a barrel
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US\$ 46.51

Aruba Tourism Welcomes ATCA Participants

Marriott Resort hosts cultural evening for ATCA



PALM BEACH – Last night, the Aruba Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino invited the participants of the ATCA conference to an evening of great food and cultural entertainment. Not only did everyone enjoy the great food, fun, music and dancing, different groups took turns taking a tour of the resort showcasing the recent renovations.

The ATCA 2009 event started on Monday hosted by the Aruba Tourism Authority. ATCA is an annual conference dedicated to all North American operators which Aruba and the Aruba Tourism Authority has the pleasure to host.

The reason for the annual conference is to debate potential strategies the better the tourism market, between Aruba and North America.

Photos by Julia Renfro



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15% off for Secretaries' Day. The finest selection of Sushi & International Cuisine for All Secretaries today.

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Moby Dick's celebrates Secretaries around the world with Lunch & Dinner

PASEO HERENCIA For a great and unique lunch experience, you definitely have to go to Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant. This is the only place on the island to savor the legendary Bloody Oyster - the ultimate delicacy only known by deep sea connoisseurs who

take pleasure in its delight on Sunday mornings. No need to wait for Sunday for this deep sea concoction of Fresh Oysters, Cooked Shrimp, Cold Vodka, Tomato Juice, Tabasco, Lime Juice, Black Pepper and Celery.

Moby Dick's weekly lunch

specials include the Famed Fish & Chips (Beer battered grouper fillet with malt vinegar & chips for only \$11.95.)

The Amazing Angus Wrap and other Memorable Sandwiches are absolutely delicious just as their dearly loved desserts. The inconceivable cocktails are even more reasons to visit this great place.

A must visit lunch appointment for great value, amazing décor, picture perfect outdoor terrace, across the street from the High-Rise hotels at the popular Paseo Herencia Mall.

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For reservations please call (297) 586-8333**

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At The Westin Resort, Aruba

ATCA delegation receives updates



PALM BEACH –The Annual Tourism Conference of Aruba kicked off this week, with Aruba's tourism partners welcoming U.S. travel wholesalers, tour operators, and airline companies to the

island. The annual event provides these travel industry professionals with an update of the island's overall tourism product. On Monday, some 75 guests gathered at The Westin Resort, Aruba for a day of



presentations and updates from all airline and tour operator partners. Pictured here the local hoteliers and the officials of the Aruba Tourism Authority, with the officials of the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Authority as they enjoy a day of information-exchange with the visiting dignitaries at the Westin Aruba Resort.



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Monday Seafood Sampler

Tuesday Bravo Italiano

Wednesday An island favorite - BBQ night

Thursday Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

Friday International Seafood Festival

Saturday Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

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Quota Bears for children

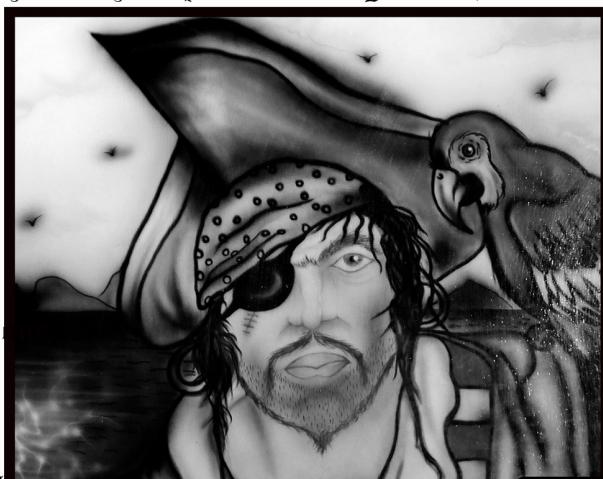


Buccaneer Restaurant

Aruba's Legendary Buccaneer Restaurant, serving the freshest fish and seafood from the sea to your to your plate including steaks, duck, poultry and pasta dishes.

Whether you come with the whole family, bring a group of friends, or enjoy for a romantic dinner for two, Buccaneer has the high quality service and fresh, flavorful international dishes that will make your dining experience a memorable reservations email us at info@buccaneeraruba.com or call 586-6172

Monday - Saturday 5:30-10 pm

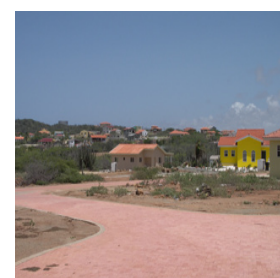


Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine



ORANJESTAD - Recently Miss. Gladys Kock director of service for Quota club international had the pleasure in donating the "Quota Bears" to some of Aruba's children charity, the quota bear is something used through out the world by all quota member as gifts to the less fortunate children.

This is a very nice and touching moment in every child's life said the spokes person of the organization and further more we hope that these bears an bring a smile to some ones life.



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At the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort

White Coat Ceremony for Xavier University



PALM BEACH - On April 16, The Xavier University School of Medicine Aruba held their 15th White Coat Ceremony at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort.

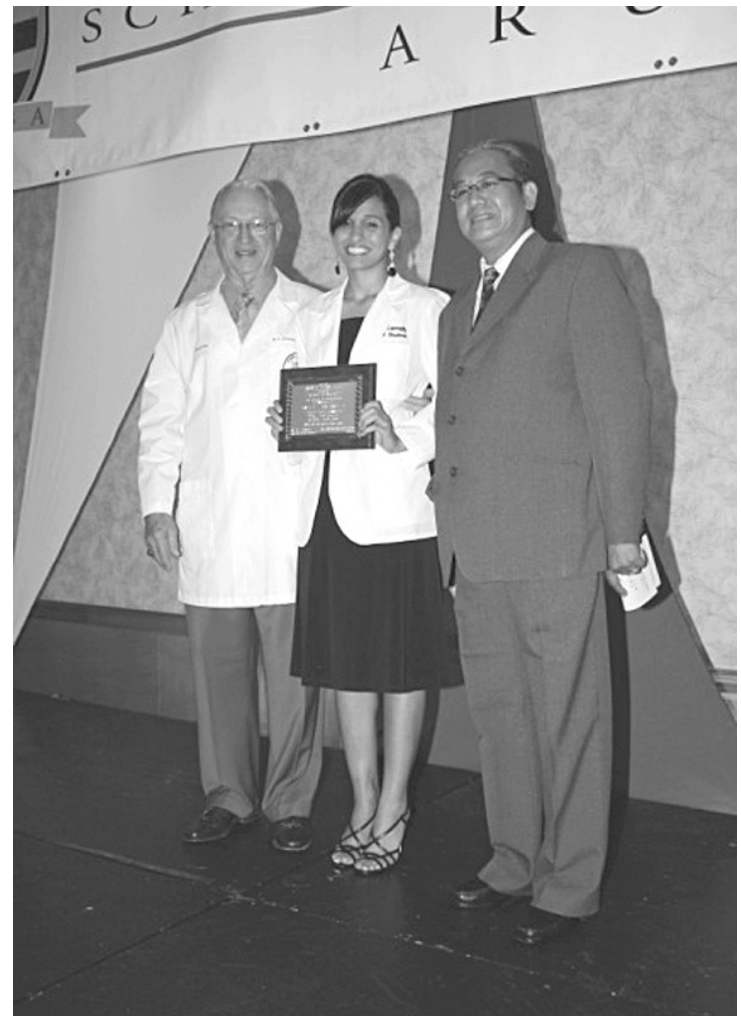
The traditional ceremony officially mark the students entrance into the profession, eighteen students assume the mantle of the medical profession in a meaningful ritual before an audience of

family and friends.

Welcome word was presented by Mrs. Karla Deithorn Campus Registrar followed by Mr. Jan van Belleghem Director of Operations, Dr. Benjamin L. Stalmaker, Vice President Academic Affairs, and Dr. Gil Apacible Dean of Basic Sciences. The guest speaker was Dr. Joel Raynherc, Head of Pediatric Department.



The Valedictorian award was given to Miss Rachel Karmally and Salutatorian Mrs. Amreen Aziz. Miss Joanna Birch A.M.S.A President and Miss Rachel Karmally S.G.A. President.



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**"FAVI FUNDACION
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Gold Coast displays its beauty and style to ATCA delegates

Malmok – Gold Coast, Aruba’s residential community entertained the delegates of the Aruba Tourism Conference 2009 for a tropical, torch lit, pool side Bon Bini reception Monday night. The cocktail party was hosted by

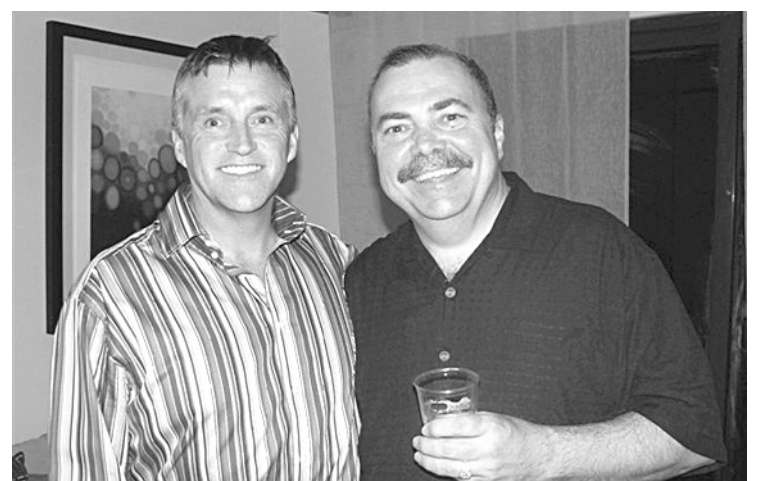
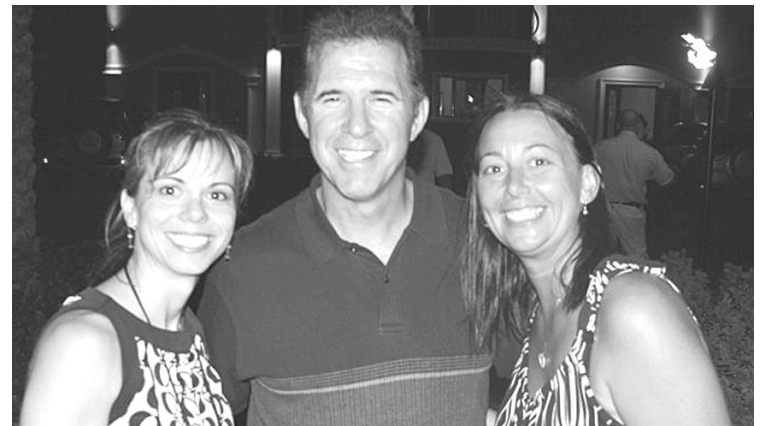
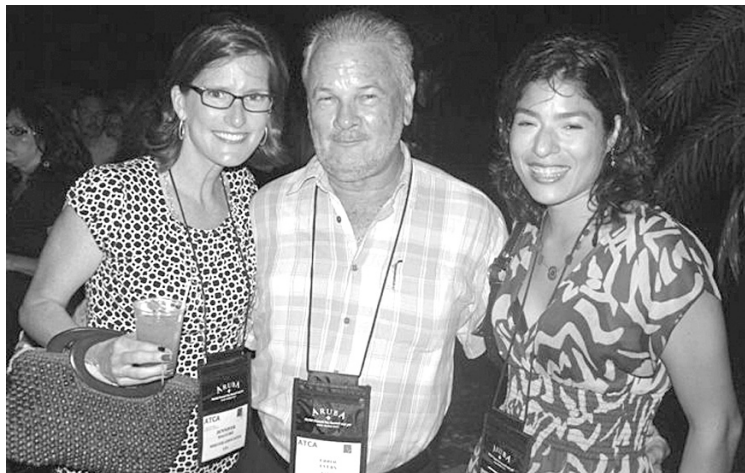
the property’s General Manager Ed Malone, and Gold Coast developers and members of management, the dynamic Croes family representatives Mayrin, Fito & Rudy. The catering for the elegant affair

was entrusted to the students of the Aruba Hospitality School, who also served the dignitaries with genuine smiles and authentic Aruban charm.

Malone welcomed the delegates, esteemed tour operators and airline delegates from North America explaining that Gold Coast is the island’s newest master-planned residential community. A great number of owned condos and villas are also renting to transient guests making Gold Coast a unique residential hotel, open and ready for business.

While on property enjoying the under-the-stars party guests were also invited to inspect the two-story town homes and villas and the one-story condos set among 26 acres of lush landscaping, picturesque plazas, fountains, and a full service clubhouse & spa. Guest praised the beauty, quality, design, style, security, and convenience of the complex, and pledged their complete support to the project.

Malone encouraged the dignitaries to visit www.goldcoastaruba.com, for more details, and was happy to tour the representatives of ATA, the Aruba Tourism Authority, as well as the executives of AHATA, the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, elaborating on the amenities



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♠ **Lose with Pocket Aces, Win \$100!** From 2 am to closing

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A black and white photograph of a woman in a swimsuit lying down, holding a fan of playing cards.

and the services available. He also introduced them to a team of university students, from the local hospitality faculty, who were working on a marketing project, eager to interview the visitors, some of them top minds in the global travel industry. Pictured here Myrna Jansen-Feliciano, Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority, Rob Smith,

the CEO of Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, Frits Israel, Marketing Director for ATA and Sanju Daryanani, Marketing Director for AHATA, the representatives of LOWE, the island’s Advertising Agency and its PR Agency MSILVER, mingling with the Gold Coast crew, and the VIP visitors, for a much-enjoyed cocktail party.

T&T regain CARIFTA swimming title CMC

SAVANETA, Aruba - Trinidad and Tobago surged to six final-day victories and recaptured the CARIFTA Swimming Championship title with a resounding four-day performance at the at the Roly Bisslik Olympic Pool on Sunday.

In securing a medal haul of 31 gold, 14 silver and 22 bronze, T&T gathered 815.50 points to win easily ahead of the Bahamas (691.50), while landing their first championship win at the meet in five years.

Guadeloupe (603) trailed T&T and The Bahamas to finish third, followed by Martinique (578.50), Jamaica (571.50), Aruba (482) and Suriname (469) with Barbados eighth on 312 points.

T&T's standout swimmer Dylan Carter copped his seventh gold medal of the meet when he landed the 11-12 Boys' 50-metre freestyle in 26.00, topping Aruba's Jordy Groters (26.16).

Cherelle Thompson, Carryl Blondell and Ryan Rigues also posted individual wins for T&T.

Thompson won the 15-17 Girls' 50m freestyle in 26.53, Blondell was the 15-17 Boys' 50m gold medallist in 24.15 and Rigues took the 15-17 Boys' 100m breaststroke in one minute 09.85 seconds.

T&T also closed out the meet with a pair of relay wins.

Rigues, Cadell Lyons, Christian Homer and Carryl Blondell linked up to win the 15-17 Boys' 200m freestyle relay in 1:36.91 and the 13-14 Boys' 200m freestyle relay in 1:41.84 through Keegan Boisson-Yates, Kareem Baptiste, Sean Roget, and Joshua Romany.

Former team champions Jamaica and Barbados combined for five wins on the final day.

Jamaican Danielle Boothe took the 11-12 Girls' 100-metre breaststroke in 1:19.89 for her third gold medal of the meet, while her teammates Timothy Wynter (2:23.09) in the 11-12 Boys' 200 backstroke

and Kenny Brittany (2:30.28) in the 13-14 Girls' 200 backstroke, also won. Barbados picked up their victories through Amara Gibbs (2:35.69) in the 11-12 Girls' 200 backstroke and their 11-12 Girls' 200 freestyle relay, with the team of Gibbs, four-time individual champion Zabrina Holder, Sherry

Inayah, Deandre Small. Final medal standings
Tabulate under: Country, G=Gold, S=Silver, B=Bronze; Total
COUNTRY G S B TOTAL
1 Trinidad & Tobago 31 14 22 67
2 Bahamas 18 17 14 49
3 Guadeloupe 18 17 12 47
4 Barbados 12 9 8 29
5 Martinique 8 16 10 34

6 Jamaica 8 12 12 32
7 Bermuda 8 1 3 12
8 Suriname 6 6 12 24
9 Aruba 5 18 15 38
10 Cayman Islands 3 0 2 5
11 Suriname 0 2 2 4
12 Netherlands Antilles 0 1 2 3
13 US Virgin Islands 0 1 1 2
13 Grenada 0 1 1 2
15 St Lucia 0 1 0 1



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The hottest Cuban Show
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The biggest stage production
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Children under 12 pay \$25
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Tickets available at Box Office,
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This special is NOT valid in combination with any other specials and cannot be
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Eagle Beach to be enriched with an Oasis

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LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME PART OF THIS LUXURY CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE



EAGLE BEACH - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with

waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool. The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the com

mon area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclu-

35 EXCLUSIVE OCEAN VIEW UNITS STARTING IN THE LOW 400'S

sive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

The best salad bar can be found in Texas

TEXAS de BRAZIL
CHURRASCARIA
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Across from the Playa Linda Resort
297.586.4686 (Serving Dinner Only)

Redeem this ad for
15% OFF*
Valid up to 6 people

*NOT VALID for desserts, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, salad only, children's dinner prices, and split checks. Tax and gratuity not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer or discounts. Limit one certificate per table.

For rewards log on www.texasdebrazil.com

PALM BEACH - The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

Restaurant open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11 pm
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to make reservations, please call 586-4686.



Marriott's Aruba Surf Club Announces Special Offer In Honor Of Marriott Vacation Club's Silver Anniversary



PALM BEACH - Marriott Vacation Club International (MVICI), the vacation ownership division of Marriott International, Inc. (NYSE:MAR), proudly celebrates 25 years of preserving one of the oldest family traditions – the family vacation.

“We like Marriott Vacation Club because it is first class,” said Bill and Grace Treubert, Marriott Vacation Club Owners at both Marriott's Aruba Surf Club and Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club. “Thanks to the three weeks we own in Aruba, we get together yearly for our family reunion.” Today the Treuberts are among nearly 400,000 vacation Owners at over 50 distinct Marriott Vacation Club resorts throughout the U.S., Caribbean, Europe and Asia. Like the Treuberts, many have been loyal since the very beginning, helping make Marriott Vacation Club International a worldwide leader in the vacation ownership industry.

The Quality Component

The first branded hospitality company to enter the timeshare industry by nearly a decade, Marriott Vacation Club marks its first 25 years with an impressive 91 percent customer satisfaction

rating. With more than 50 percent of the company's business coming from Owners purchasing additional weeks and referring friends, the common denominator for many is Marriott's signature quality and service.

“Everything about Marriott is five-star quality to us,” says Treubert. “We really enjoy the three-bedroom unit since it accommodates everyone comfortably. We utilize the fully equipped kitchen for breakfasts and most lunches and then always test out one of the great restaurants on the island for our family dinners.”

A typical Marriott Vacation Club two-bedroom, two-bath villa in Aruba includes a spacious floor plan featuring a fully-equipped gourmet kitchen with granite countertops and tile floors, spacious living and dining areas, multiple televisions with DVD players, a deep soaking tub in the master suite, private balcony, washer/dryer and Wi-Fi internet access.

Industry Firsts

Marriott Vacation Club boats an unprecedented number of industry-firsts that have changed the face of vacation ownership

by bringing increased credibility and setting an example for other branded hospitality companies to follow. With the launch of its premiere resort, Marriott Vacation Club replaced industry-standard fixed weeks and units with seasonally-based, floating time and property use.

In 1996 Marriott Vacation Club laid down its first European footprint with the opening of Marriott's Marbella Beach Resort on Spain's Costa del Sol. A decade later, a new Asia Pacific Regional Office and sales gallery in Singapore opened to serve an emerging market already enamored with Marriott's Phuket Beach Club in Thailand.

The American Business Awards has taken notice of Marriott Vacation Club International's winning ways, naming MVCI “Best Sales Organization” three times in the last six years and “Best Customer Service Organization” in 2007. Hailed as “the business world's own Oscars,” The American Business Awards' Stevie is the first national, all-encompassing business awards program honoring great performances in business and positive contributions in the workplace.

A Customer-Driven Evolution

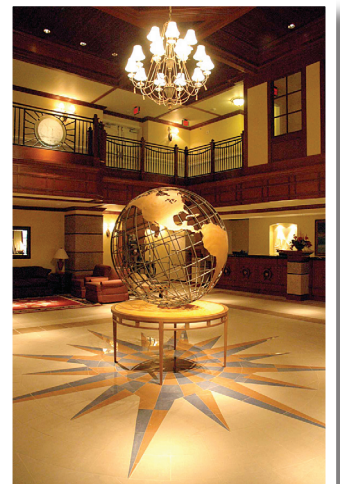
While compiling its diverse portfolio of beach, ski, golf and spa, and themed-entertainment resorts in prime vacation destinations, Marriott Vacation Club stayed focused on the vacation experiences of its growing Owner base. Over the years, Owners were treated to flexible options—ranging from floating check-in and split-week vacations to worldwide exchange through Interval International. In Aruba, many Marriott Vacation Club Owners choose to re-visit Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club or

Marriott's Aruba Surf Club for their annual vacation, keeping the destination on the top tier of the most requested locations.

Special Offer

To celebrate this significant milestone, Marriott's Aruba Surf Club is currently making an unprecedented, limited-time offer for all Owners and guests. To take advantage of this offer commemorating Marriott Vacation Club's 25th anniversary visit www.marriott-vacations.com and for more information on Marriott's Aruba Surf Club visit www.marriottsarubasurfclub.com. Guests may also contact the resort at 297-586-2641 or 1-866-978-7008 and visit the sales gallery located at Marriott's Aruba Ocean Club, 99 L.G. Smith Blvd.

“We are immensely excited to be able to present our Owners and guests with this unprecedented offer in honor of our 25th anniversary,” said



Jim Hansen, vice president of sales and marketing for the East and Caribbean region, Marriott Vacation Club International. “This is the perfect opportunity for more families to consider the benefits of vacation ownership ‘the Marriott Way.’”

“Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of “Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm.

The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted.

We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum.

Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



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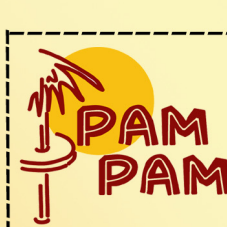
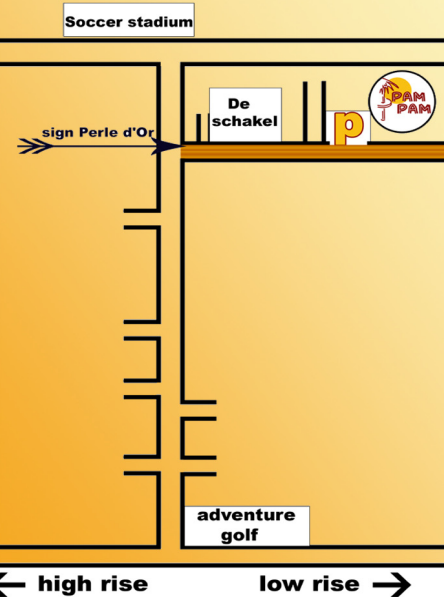
Located in the charming tropical enverions of the Perle d'Or resort, the Pam Pam restaurant offers a peek at Aruba's cunucu (countryside) while still being conveniently located close to all of Aruba's prime resorts.

Firts-time patrons will be pleasantly surprised by an appealing a la carte menu that is quite affordably priced.

Pam Pam has the biggest menu with a choice from 26 main-courses, all priced between \$ 13 / \$ 23 (excl. discount).no service charge

Pam Pam 's house specialty is a unique method of preperation, wich presently at Aruba is found only at their establishment and which they have dubbed their "gourmet meal.

A grill and a collection of fresh ingredients for the various dishes ordered are assembled tableside, and patrons prepare the food themselves, controlling their preference of seasonings and garnishes, along with degree of doneness, providin a unique and personal taste treat. It is suggested that reservation for this singular dining experience be made before 3 p.m



With this coupon you recieve 20% dicount on all main-courses from our menu.

1 coupon per 2 persons and not valid with other dicounts or specials for reservation call: 5877710 / 5932660

A Poem for Little lady Shanayah.... Our sweet dynamic princess on her bike.

SHANAYAH HOWELL OUR BLESSED FEMALE
BMX RIDER
SHANAYAH OUR BEAUTIFUL AND SHINING
CHAMP

She is young, and she is strong
She is wise, and she is nice
She is from Aruba, island in the sun
Riding her BMX bike, having fun
She is our pride, our number one
She is blessed like her name in a song
She is a little lady with a glow
Aruba is happy to see her grow
In a strong athlete, and the things she knows
Her faith, her focus, her will, her mind....
Shanayah is one of a kind !!!
Thank you sweet Shanayah for letting Aruba shine
Thank you for lifting up this island of mine...
Thank you for doing what you do best
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Author : Ruthy "Lady Ruth" Vrieswijk-Bergen
Aruba, April 2009



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Arthur & Shirley Dock are Ambassadors of Goodwill



PALM BEACH –Mandy Lopez, an official with the Aruba Tourism Authority bestowed the honor of naming them the island's newest Ambassadors of Goodwill, on Arthur & Shirley Dock staying with seventeen family members at the Radisson

Aruba Resort Casino & Spa.

While the Dock family came to Aruba to celebrate Arthur's 83rd birthday, Shirley reports they have been coming here for 31 years, and that their first grandchild was 18 months when he landed here on his

first vacation, he is 18 now.

Arthur & Shirley are proud of their gathering of four generations. As they have three daughters, they are now blessed by six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



The Docks, from NY, who have been married for 63 year, recount that on one of their visits, in 1989, they won a jackpot at the Holiday Inn casino which they used as a down-payment on a timeshare unit they still enjoy. Arthur reports he will go on living as long as he can vacation here!

Pictured here the Docks with Mandy Lopez and resort

representative Narshell Gibbs who also enjoyed a memorable rendition of "Wake Me Up Early Shirley," a ditty penned by Arthur when he was courting Shirley. The song urges Shirley to kick Arthur out of bed early, and promises he won't be mad. The two great-grandchildren served as orchestra directors, and the entire beach front of Palm Beach was entertained.



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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Killing the Rabbit

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Not to long ago, to find out if a woman was pregnant you injected her urine into a female rabbit and observed what happened. During early pregnancy urine contains an elevated level of hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin), which triggers bulging masses in female rabbit's ovaries. Unfortunately, to check this, the accepted procedure was to kill the animal, and dissect it to see the changes in its ovaries. Imagine doing this to an animal that symbolizes life, healing, clear-sightedness, and gentleness.

Today, home pregnancy tests still measure the presence of hCG in your urine. This hormone, produced by cells from the placenta, gets into your bloodstream when the fertilized egg implants in your uterus (about six days after fertilization). The amount of hCG in your body increases rapidly over the next few weeks. By 14 days after fertilization (about the time you would expect your period), some home pregnancy tests may be able to detect the hormone in your urine and give you a positive result.

For many women, getting pregnant is not so easy. Virtually all cultures have had a means of venerating the Supreme Being as a female. Hindu and Buddhist cultures are rife with forms of the Divine Mother that could be asked to help with fertility problems. In the Islamic tradition Allah has two principle names - Rahman and Rahim which mean Compassionate and Merciful. Both are derived from the root Arabic word that denotes womb.

Fecundity or being able to have children has always been an issue. Unfortunately, the number of U.S. women with problems getting pregnant grew by about 35% over the period, from 4.6 million in 1982 to 6.2 million in 1995.

If you're under 35 and have been trying to get pregnant for less than a year (or fewer than six months if you're over 35), you have no reason to be concerned yet. To make sure you're doing all you can to enhance your chances of getting pregnant come in for a consultation. If you're under 35 and have had frequent unprotected sex for more than a year (or at least six months if you're over 35) without conceiving, there's a good chance you or your partner may have a condition that's interfering with your chances of conceiving — but only a doctor can diagnose a fertility problem for sure.

Researchers estimate that as many as one in ten couples have trouble getting pregnant. If you're one of them, that doesn't mean you'll never have children. Many couples (some estimate 50 percent) need extra time or medical intervention to get pregnant. Couples have had great success using Traditional Chinese Medical therapies that we offer in our clinic. We have found that by supporting and balancing both partners, we can enhance the positive outcomes. In both we want to make sure that neither smokes tobacco or marijuana nor is more than 25 percent under- or overweight.

Women tend to have fertility problems when they have a history of: endometriosis, uterine fibroids, pelvic inflammatory disease, blocked Fallopian tubes from a previous infection or surgery, or chronic illness such as diabetes, cancer, or thyroid disease. Sexually transmitted disease can adversely affect chances of getting pregnant. Women who have painful or irregular periods or excessive facial and body hair have hormonal imbalances that negatively impact fecundity. Finally, women can be allergic to their partner's sperm that will impair pregnancy and irritates the woman's sexual organs.

Men can have problems if they have a history of: infection with the mumps virus after puberty, diabetes, cancer, thyroid disease, undescended testicles, testicular tumors, cysts or cancer, or varicoceles, which are varicose veins in the scrotum. Heat kills sperm, so tight underwear, hot tub, saunas, and frequent long-distance bike rides can greatly reduce your sperm count. Couples can increase their chances of getting pregnant. First the woman needs to chart her basal body temperature daily and check for changes in cervical mucus to determine her ovulation cycle. Second, studies show that women whose body mass index (BMI) is below 20 or above 30 have a harder time getting pregnant. I always recommend the man-on-top position which allows for the deepest penetration and, as a result, places sperm closer to egg. Also, when a woman has an orgasm the mouth of the womb



extends to the vaginal floor and picks up the sperm. I recommend woman have an orgasm after their partner. Finally, stress can affect the hypothalamus gland in the brain which regulates appetite, emotions, and the hormones required to release the eggs. If you're stressed out, you may ovulate later in your cycle or not at all. Plus, as many couples trying to get pregnant know, feeling anxious and overwhelmed can kill your sex drive.

Get the Point! When cheap, fast tests without animals were developed, pregnant women and rabbits heaved a sigh of relief. However, in spite of their claims, most home pregnancy tests are not sensitive enough to guarantee you an accurate result in a couple of days of conceiving. You're much more likely to get an accurate result if you wait until a week after your expected period before testing. If you really want to increase your chances, come in for a fecundity workup. Meanwhile a small offering to a

fecundity deity won't hurt.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com 101 Great Ways to Improve YOUR HEALTH, 101 Expert tips to Great Health, Including a chapter by Carlos M. Viana, Aruba's Barefoot Doctor. Available NOW in Aruba @ Viana Center, Hotel Gift Shops & All Bookstores.

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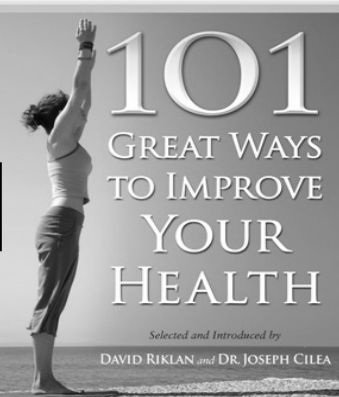
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Co-authored by Aruba's
Carlos Viana, O.M.D., C.N.N.

At Caribbean Investment Conference In Bermuda

Optimistic Mood Prevails As Hotel, Tourism Officials Gather

Speakers and Delegates Discuss Potential Growth for the Caribbean Market

CORAL GABLES, FL – A total of 296 attendees, including bankers, investors, developers, hoteliers and tourism officials, expressed optimism last week as they gathered in Bermuda for the annual Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Investment Conference (CHTIC), a cooperative event organized by the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

“The mood was surprisingly optimistic despite the dire economic situation that many destinations, hotels and other companies find themselves in at this time,” said Enrique De Marchena Kaluche, president of CHTA. “Many of the speakers and general delegates expressed their overall support for the Caribbean as a region that continues to have potential for growth and expansion.”

De Marchena Kaluche also noted “there are a lot of solid and sound business opportunities in the Caribbean despite the lagging global economy.”

The Hon. Ewart Brown, Premier of Bermuda, keynoted the conference and lauded the



Premier Dr. the Hon. Ewart Brown (center), Minister of Tourism and Transport for Bermuda, and Norman Masatalir (left), General Manager of the Fairmont Southampton, welcome the Hon. John Maginley (second from left), Minister of Tourism for Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Commissioners of the Caribbean Tourism Organization. CHTA President Enrique De Marchena Kaluche (second from right) and Alec Sanguinetti, Director General and CEO of CHTA.

timeshare industry, in particular fractional resort complexes, for stimulating the Bermudian tourism economy.

CTO Chairman John Maginley, also Minister of Tourism for Antigua and Barbuda, challenged governments and hoteliers to

work together to both maintain the quality of the tourism product as well as find creative marketing solutions to drive visitors to the

Caribbean.

Avery Shenfeld, Managing Director and Senior Economist for CIBC World Markets, said “there is some light at the end of the tunnel as new capital and the freezing of the capital markets appear to be easing off. The ultimate weapon is government spending and that all of the current spending will hit the global market in the second half of the year. By 2011 we expect to see all of the green lights flashing.”

However, he also noted that while the U.S. and Canadian economic downfall is slowing, as indicated by some of the recent activity, we are not at the bottom yet.

In looking at the impact of the global economic slide on tourism, Duane T. Vinson, Vice President of Smith Travel Research, said that “the decline in demand has not been that significant, but the room rates and revenue decline has been great and that is the real concern. The Caribbean, in comparison to other warm weather destinations around the world, is down in demand by 6.5 percent compared to double digit declines in other destinations.”

He pointed out that high-end luxury properties are discounting more and that business and corporate travel as well as meetings and conventions are off significantly, which also has a greater impact on the larger hotels.

Enrique De Marchena Kaluche, CHTA president, opened the conference with a note of cautious optimism.

“This is a very perilous time in the history of global economics. A time when the investment community is being challenged every day to produce and succeed, to keep as much of its work force in order not to cause more stress in the economies, and all of that with very little possibility of obtaining any assistance from lending institutions.”

He also noted that “we know that there are solid and sound business opportunities in the Caribbean and it is true that there are a lot of challenges. We need to understand the importance of airlift, the ultimate importance of better public infrastructure, security, health and the relevance of diversifying our markets and taking advantage of that diversification.

Continued on page 15

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Continued from page 14

For example, Canada had a growth of 14% in the number of its citizens that traveled to the Caribbean last year for a total of 2.5 million Canadian visitors.” De Marchena Kaluche pointed out that “last year, this conference concluded with optimism at an all-time high. We had a record of more than 500 attendees and the projected investments that were being generated and planned for the Caribbean were totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. Today, we have gathered a little more than half of the number that attended last year. And many of the investors that were so truly optimistic a year ago are cautious today. “But that only makes me more determined to bring everyone together to work in unison to raise the awareness of the importance of tourism to the economies of the Caribbean, and the opportunities that the Caribbean brings to existing and potential investors. And, with this focus we can continue to move forward and grow the tourism and hospitality sector in the region and successfully expand the development and investment outlook for all

interested parties.”

He concluded “We are a vibrant industry that will turn around and flourish again as the economy stabilizes. That’s why it is so important that you are here today to look beyond the problems and find new solutions to the future success of Caribbean tourism.” Premier Dr. the Hon. Ewart Brown, Minister of Tourism and Transport for Bermuda, keyed the conference focusing on the importance of the timeshare industry to the tourism stability of Bermuda.

He announced a “public-private partnership that will bring a new hotel to our vibrant Atlantic-facing south shore. It has been decades since we have built a new hotel on the south shore in Bermuda.”

He also announced that Bazarian International will break ground at the former Club Med site in the fall of this year. A Park Hyatt Resort will stand where the Club Med once did.

He talked about the “significant progress” in the area of mixed-use resorts, in particular fractional timeshare resorts. “Increasingly more and more of our visitors choose fractional units. Since you were last here in 2006, more than 200 fractional units have sold in Bermuda, according to the

Cabinet Minister responsible for Housing. And that excludes our biggest selling year of 2005. In that year we sold 115 fractional units.

“It has also resulted in significant revenue for the Government. More than \$10 million [was] collected in fees related to fractional units since the start of the 2005/2006 fiscal year. That can pay for a lot of important social programs in a progressive agenda.

“We believe fractional units also play an important part in stimulating our overall tourism product. A fractional unit owner will come to Bermuda at least once a year in some cases and more than once a year in most cases. The thinking here is simple: if I paid for it, I’m going to use it. And when a fractional owner can not use her unit, she is more likely to send a friend or family member.

“We think fractional units also increase the likelihood of visits during the cooler months when our tourism business is at its softest. More importantly perhaps, fractional units help us keep more of the tourism workforce employed year-round – an especially critical point in times like these.



The first general session heard optimism from (left to right) Duane T. Vinson, Vice President of Smith Travel Research; Avery Shenfeld, Managing Director and Senior Economist for CIBC World Markets; Simon Townend, Partner with KPMG Corporate Finance; and David Larone, Director of PKF Consulting.

“Overall, we’ve seen our annual air visitor spending on-island skyrocket more than \$100 million between 2005 and 2007—from \$341 million to \$444 million. We think the increased number of fractional owners played a role in that increase.

“So it should be no surprise that our recently opened hotels – Newstead-Belmont Hills and Tucker’s Point – have significant fractional ownership components. Additionally, the Park Hyatt in St. George and the Reef’s Hotel – both currently under expansion – also have fractional ownership in their business models.

The Hon. John Maginley,

Minister of Tourism for Antigua and Barbuda and Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Commissioners of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, said: “There is no doubt that this conference comes at a very difficult time for Caribbean and world tourism, and for the global economy on the whole. This poses several key challenges for our tourism sector. With less revenue, we have less to spend on marketing, yet we have to ensure that we remain visible in the marketplace, and to identify those who will still travel and encourage them to take their vacations in our member countries.



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Fantastic turn-out for third edition of Flora's Clown Doctors Caminata



ORANJESTAD - More than 700 people, young and old, turned up for the third edition of Flora's Clown Doctors Caminata, held this past Sunday afternoon. The ambiance at Flora was electrifying, red noses were everywhere and participants were hot to trot, wearing their terrific event tee-shirts. At 5 pm emcee Ruben Garcia started lining up the people for the Guinness Book of World Records effort, which consisted of '10 minutes of the most people wearing red noses'. The notary was there, the celebrity witnesses were busy, Rona Coster was photographer par excellence, local television was present and Robert Ras of TeleAruba filmed the happening for the record effort. But did we get it, did we break a record? We must wait... the findings of the notary will be sent to London and then the top honchos of the Guinness business will decide whether



Aruba got the record or not. The Clown Doctors are holding their breath, together with all the enthusiastic participants. We shall tell you as soon as we know. The 6-km caminata went like a breeze, but who would not like to take a walk in the company of E-Z Party Solutions' cartoon animals and with the Kukoo Kunuku Bus in the rear picking up little kids with tired feet. Halfway there, there was a bottle of Claro water and at the end Romar's terrific Frito Lay chips. Visser had taken care of the thirsty visitors of

the elderly of Maris Stella, who were transported to and from Flora by the Kiwanis of Palm Beach. There were ice creams for the kids from Beauty and the Beast, apple cake and sandwiches for the elderly from Taste of Belgium and lots of great support from Idefre, the police force of Aruba and many volunteers, Zenitel and Idefre. The local celebrities who helped out were also much appreciated: thanks Sarah-Quita, Tecla, Joel, Ivy, Tessa, Herman, Shanayah, Cherryldine and all the others.

But the music did not stop at the end of the parade: Youth X-treme, this year's top band at carnival, played its heart out until dark. Financial support for this super performance was courtesy of Digicel. Thank you, participants, celebs, volunteers, sponsors and supporters. Wow, this year's Flora's Clown Doctors Caminata was absolutely great!

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President Barack Obama watches as former President Bill Clinton plants a tree as they participate in a national service project at Kenilworth Aquatic Garden in Washington, Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

Associated Press

Obama urges citizens to undertake national service

ANN SANNER

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Calling on Americans to volunteer, President Barack Obama signed a \$5.7 billion national service bill Tuesday that triples the size of the AmeriCorps service program over the next eight years and expands ways for students to earn money for college. “What this legislation does, then, is to help harness this patriotism and connect deeds to needs,” said Obama, a former community organizer in Chicago.

“It creates opportunities to serve for students, seniors and everyone in between,” he said. “And it is just the beginning of a sustained, collaborative and focused effort to involve our greatest resource — our citizens — in the work of remaking this nation.”

Joining Obama was Sen.

Edward M. Kennedy, who has been battling brain cancer. Kennedy championed the legislation with Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and the bill was named in honor of the Massachusetts Democrat. Kennedy told the audience that included former President Bill Clinton, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former first lady Rosalyn Carter that Obama’s efforts echoed those of his late brother, President John F. Kennedy.

“Today, another young president has challenged another generation to give back to their nation,” Kennedy said, citing his brother’s advocacy for the Peace Corps.

The service law expands ways for students and seniors to earn money for college through their volunteer work. It aims to foster and fulfill people’s desire to make a difference,

such as by mentoring children, cleaning up parks or buildings and weatherizing homes for the poor.

“

I’m asking you to help change history’s course, put your shoulder up against the wheel,” Obama said. “And if you do, I promise you your life will be richer, our country will be stronger, and someday, years from now, you may remember it as the moment when your own story and the American story converged, when they came together, and we met the challenges of our new century.”

Bolstering voluntary public service programs has been a priority of Obama, who credits his work as a community organizer in his early 20s for giving him direction in life.

Continued on next page

FBI’s newest ‘Most Wanted’ terrorist is American



A photo of Daniel Andreas San Diego, top right, appears on a poster of the FBI’s most wanted terrorists during a news conference announcing his addition to the most wanted terrorist list, Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at FBI Headquarters in Washington.

Associated Press

DEVLIN BARRETT

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)

— A fugitive animal rights activist believed to be hiding outside the United States has become the first domestic terror suspect named to the FBI’s list of “Most Wanted” terrorists. Daniel Andreas San Diego, a 31-year-old computer specialist is wanted for the 2003 bombings of two corporate offices in

California.

Authorities say San Diego has unusual tattoos, including one that shows a burning field and proclaims, “It only takes a spark.” FBI Assistant Director Michael Heimbach announced San Diego’s addition to its “Most Wanted” terrorists list at a press conference Tuesday. Authorities believe he has fled the United States.

Continued on page 3

Red Cross: Sri Lankans in ‘catastrophic’ situation

KRISHAN FRANCIS

Associated Press Writer

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Tens of thousands of civilians trapped in Sri Lanka’s northern war zone face a “catastrophic” situation, the Red Cross said, amid fears a final assault against the Tamil Tiger rebels would lead to a dramatic rise in casualties.

The United Nations and others have called for a negotiated truce to allow civilians to leave the rebel-held coastal strip — and the government says more than 52,000 had escaped since Monday.

But it has refused to heed the international pleas to halt the fighting, saying Tuesday that it is on the verge of crushing the separatists and putting an end to the 25-year-old war. The U.N. estimated more than 4,500 civilians have been killed in the past three months.

Continued on page 8

National service

Continued from front page

The president cited his work in Chicago as an example of how one person can make a difference.

“All that’s required on your part is a willingness to make a difference,” Obama said. “And that is, after all, the beauty of service: Anybody can do it.”

Obama visited the SEED School of Washington, a public boarding school that serves inner-city students facing problems in both the classroom and at home, for the signing ceremony.

Afterward, Obama and first lady Michelle Obama joined Clinton to plant trees at a national park site along the Anacostia River in northeast Washington. At the Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, Obama rolled up his sleeves with volunteers from the Student Conservation Association and local public high schools.

“Somebody forgot my boots,”



President Barack Obama stands with Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., before he signs the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act at the SEED School of Washington, a public boarding school that serves inner-city students facing problems in both the classroom and at home, in Washington, Tuesday, April 21, 2009.

Associated Press

Obama joked to the students. Obama on Tuesday also nominated Nike Inc. vice president Maria Eitel to lead the federal agency that oversees the country’s national service programs.

Eitel, who’s also president of the Nike Foundation, would have to be confirmed by the Senate to become CEO of the

Corporation for National and Community Service.

Congress passed the bill last month with largely bipartisan support and Obama is seeking \$1.1 billion to fund it next year. Some Republicans complain it is too costly and is an unnecessary intrusion by government into something Americans already do eagerly

and in great numbers — helping their neighbors and communities.

The legislation provides for gradually increasing the size of the Clinton-era AmeriCorps to 250,000 enrollees from its current 75,000. It outlines five broad categories where people can direct their service: helping the poor, improving education, encouraging energy efficiency, strengthening access to health care and assisting veterans.

AmeriCorps offers a range of volunteer opportunities including housing construction, youth outreach, disaster response and caring for the elderly. Most receive an annual stipend of slightly less than \$12,000 for working 10 months to a year.

AmeriCorps has seen a recent surge in applications, according to the Corporation for National and Community Service, which oversees the program.

In March, the organization received 17,038 online AmeriCorps applications, nearly double those received in the previous month and

nearly triple the 6,770 received last March. Alan Solomont, who chairs AmeriCorps’ board, said former President John F. Kennedy’s call to service inspired more people to help others than just those who joined the Peace Corps. He said this national service legislation could produce the same effect.

“It is not unlike the moment in 1960 when President Kennedy asked Americans, you know, to serve, but it is certainly going to engage millions more today,” Solomont said in a conference call arranged by the White House.

The bill also ties volunteer work to money for college.

People 55 and older could earn \$1,000 education awards by getting involved in public service. Those awards can be transferred to a child, grandchild or even someone they mentored.

Students from sixth grade through senior year of high school could earn a \$500 education award for helping in their neighborhoods during a new summer program.

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Island Remedy. The legend of aloe revealed.

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Most wanted

Continued from front page

In the global search for the suspect, Heimbach said the Federal Bureau of Investigation has spoken to officials in Germany, Britain, Costa Rica, France, Spain, Denmark, Austria, Italy, the Czech Republic, Mexico, Argentina, the Philippines, and Chile.

He has ties to Germany, and may be living in Costa Rica, officials said.

"The leads have gone stale on us, so now we're seeking the public's awareness," said Heimbach.

San Diego is the 24th person on the bureau's wanted terrorist list, and the only domestic terror suspect.

The move to add a domestic,

left-wing activist to the list comes only days after the Obama administration was criticized for internal reports suggesting some military veterans could be susceptible to right-wing extremist recruiters or commit lone acts of violence. That prompted angry reactions from some lawmakers and veterans groups.

An arrest warrant was issued for San Diego after the 2003 bombings in northern California of the corporate offices of Chiron Corp., a biotechnology firm, and at Shaklee Corp., a nutrition and cosmetics company. The explosions caused minor damages and no injuries.

A group calling itself "Revolutionary Cells" took responsibility for the blasts,

telling followers in a series of e-mails that Chiron and Shaklee had been targeted for their ties to a research company that conducted drug and chemical experiments on animals.

Officials have offered a \$250,000 reward for information leading to his capture, five times the reward amounts offered for other so-called eco-terrorists wanted in the U.S.

The FBI says animal rights and environmental extremists have been responsible for over 1,800 criminal acts and more than \$110 million in damages. Currently, the bureau is investigating 170 animal rights or environmental extremism incidents.

Law enforcement officials describe San Diego as a strict



vegan who possesses a 9mm handgun. On his abdomen, he has tattoo images of burning and collapsing buildings. The FBI's "Most Wanted" terrorist list is distinct from the much longer-running "Ten Most Wanted" list. Al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden is on both.

There is another American already on the terrorist list, but he is wanted for his work overseas for al-Qaida. Adam Yahye Gadahn grew up in California but moved to Pakistan and works as a translator and consultant to al-Qaida.

U.S. restores stricter reporting of toxic pollution

DINA CAPPIELLO

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. government will once again require companies to fully disclose the toxic chemicals they release into the air, onto land and into water.

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Tuesday that it was reversing a decision by the Bush administration in 2006 that reduced reporting of toxic pollution for more than 3,500 facilities nationwide.

The Bush rules allowed facilities storing or releasing smaller amounts of toxic chemicals to submit less-detailed information to the government.

More than a dozen states had sued the agency over the change saying it reduced the information available to the public about chemical hazards in communities.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson said Tuesday that the annual database — known as the Toxics Release Inventory — was a crucial tool for safeguarding public health and the environment.

For more than two decades, the inventory has collected information on the release of hundreds of hazardous chemicals from thousands of facilities nationwide.

"People have a right to the information that might affect their health and the health of their children — and EPA has a responsibility to provide it," Jackson said in a statement.

In December 2006, to reduce the burden on industry, the Bush administration allowed companies using less than 5,000 pounds of toxic chemicals, or releasing less than 2,000 pounds, to submit shorter, less-detailed reports.

Previously, more detailed information had to be provided in longer forms if there was as little as 500 pounds, a threshold that the Bush rule maintained only for some of the most dangerous chemicals.

Congressional auditors said the change would have cut by a quarter the number of emissions reports the government receives each year.

The EPA was required to reverse the rule by a spending bill signed into law in March. It will apply to reports due July 1 covering emissions during 2008.

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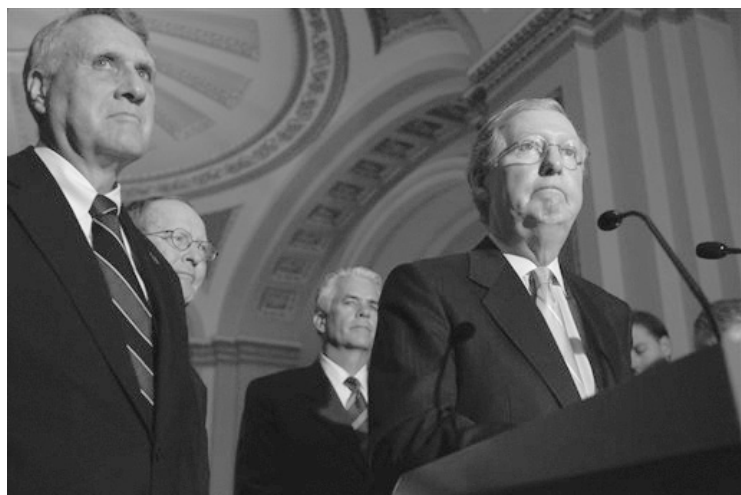
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Senator McConnell blasts plan to close Guantanamo



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., left, accompanied by fellow House and Senate Republicans, including House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, right, gestures during a news conference on the House steps on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 1, 2009, to draw attention to their opposition of President Obama's budget. Associated Press

ANDREW O. SELSKY
Associated Press Writer
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — President Barack Obama came under fire Tuesday for including \$80 million to close Guantanamo in a massive funding request to fight America's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The \$83.4 billion request to

Congress was submitted on April 9, when lawmakers were on break over the Easter holidays. Tucked into the 99-page bill were a few paragraphs about Guantanamo — including a request for funds for foreign countries that accept prisoners. U.S. efforts to have other countries take in detainees have largely been a

flop — stoking fears the men will end up in America.

"The administration needs to tell the American people what it plans to do with these men if they close Guantanamo," U.S. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said on the Senate floor Tuesday. He pointed out that two years ago the Senate voted 94-3 against sending detainees to the U.S.

McConnell opposes closing Guantanamo.

"Foreign countries have thus far been unwilling to take them in any significant numbers. And even if countries were willing to take them, there's an increasing probability that some of these murderers would return to the battlefield," he said.

Military Families United, a military family advocacy organization, predicted the inclusion of money to close Guantanamo in the war-funding request "will signifi-

cantly delay the passage of this legislation and delay our troops from getting the funding they need and deserve."

"Funding for our troops cannot be made contingent on funding for an unrelated and politically divisive issue like the closure of Guantanamo Bay," the group said.

McConnell spokesman Don Stewart said Republicans are looking at ways to strip the Guantanamo money from the funding bill. There is no move afoot to block the entire funding bill because "this is money for our troops," Stewart said.

Obama seeks \$30 million in Justice Department funding to shut down the Guantanamo detention center, review U.S. detention and interrogation procedures and fund future litigation.

Another \$50 million in Defense Department funds sought by Obama would support the relocation of the 240

prisoners at Guantanamo, which Obama has ordered closed by January, and re-deploy military and support forces associated with the detention center on the Navy base.

Some of the \$50 million would also "provide assistance to foreign nations" as detainees are relocated.

The U.S. wants to resettle dozens of Guantanamo prisoners in foreign lands, but countries have been reluctant to take them because of security concerns.

A senior Obama administration official indicated Tuesday that some of the funding could be used to help foreign nations pay for rehabilitation programs. The official was not authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

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GUIDA BO OIDO

Pirate comes to NY, world away from home in Africa

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse grew up destitute in Somalia, the oldest of 12 children and the product of a violent, lawless nation where his parents scraped together a few dollars a day selling milk and tending to a small herd of camels, cows and goats. For entertainment, he would frequent a run-down outdoor cinema and watch Bollywood movies in a town with no running water or electricity. He eventually joined a gang of pirates who laid siege to an American cargo ship and took the captain hostage before three of them were killed by U.S. Navy snipers. Muse survived but was stabbed in the hand with a knife, telling a crew member after the attack that it was always his dream to come to America.

On Tuesday, the teenager made it to America under circumstances far from idyllic, appearing in a packed federal courtroom in New York on what are believed to be the first piracy charges in the U.S. in more than a century. Prosecutors portrayed him as the brazen ringleader of the pirates who shot at the ship's captain and bragged about prior acts of piracy. But the bravado authorities say Muse displayed as the first pirate to board the Maersk Alabama on April 8 had evaporated by the time he entered the courtroom. The 5-foot-2 Muse looked bewildered and so scrawny that his prison clothes were several sizes too big. He had a frayed white bandage where he was stabbed.

When his court-appointed lawyer said Muse's father would be interviewed in Somalia to verify his birthdate, Muse put his head in his hand and broke down in tears. When the judge asked him if he understood that court-appointed lawyers would represent him, the teenager responded through a translator: "I understand. I don't have any money." When he was asked to raise his right hand, he pointed it into the air as if he was being called on in class.

The decision by the federal government to bring Muse to justice here has thrust the skinny teenager into the international spotlight, and raised legal questions about whether the U.S. is going too far in trying to make an example of someone so young.

Muse was charged with piracy, conspiracy and brandishing and firing a gun during a conspiracy.

The most serious count carries a mandatory sentence of life in prison.

"An act of piracy against one nation is a crime against all nations," said Acting U.S. Attorney Lev L. Dassin.

The government says Muse is 18. A federal judge agreed Tuesday, ruling that Muse is an adult and that the case can proceed in open court. But his lawyers said they are going to continue to investigate his age and believe that he will ultimately be exonerated. If he is found to be underage, defense lawyers could try to have the case tossed out or seek leniency if he is convicted.

Defense lawyer Deirdre von Dornum said she has had to reassure Muse that the American justice system is fair, because he knows only the anarchy that has ruled Somalia. She said he smiled before a gaggle of news cameras upon his arrival in New York on Monday only because he had never seen a camera in his life. "As you can tell, he's extremely young, injured and terrified," von Dornum said.

The details of Muse's life are murky, with his parents in Somalia insisting he was tricked into getting involved in piracy. His mother said he was "wise beyond his years" — a child who ignored other boys his age who tried to tease him and got lost in books instead.

"The last time I saw him he was in his school uniform," the teen's mother, Adar Abdirahman Hassan, 40, told The Associated Press by telephone Tuesday from her home in Galkayo. "He was brainwashed. People who are

older than him outwitted him, people who are older than him duped him."

Muse's mother sells milk at a small market every day, saving around \$6 every month for school fees for her oldest son. She pays \$15 a month in rent.

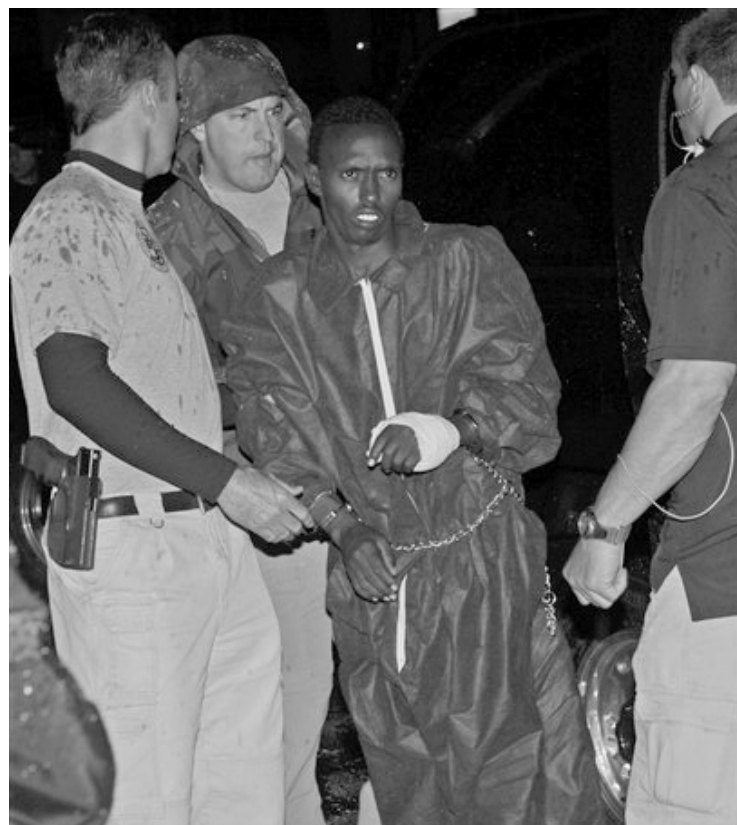
Omar Jamal, executive director of the Somali Justice Advocacy Center in Minneapolis, said his Somali immigrant organization reached family members of the pirates during the hostage standoff in the Indian Ocean. Muse's family members "don't have any money. The father has some camels and cows and goats outside the city. ... The father goes outside with the livestock and comes home at night. Father said they don't have any money, they are broke," Jamal said.

At some point, Muse teamed up with the pirates who set their sights on the Maersk Alabama as it carried humanitarian supplies to Africa. They stormed the ship with AK-47s and tangled with the Maersk crew.

An FBI criminal complaint unsealed Tuesday said Muse was the first to board the boat, firing his gun at the captain. He entered the bridge, told the captain to stop the ship and "conducted himself as the leader of the pirates," according to the complaint.

A Connecticut crewman led Muse into the engine room, where he says he plunged a knife into the pirate's hand.

The pirates held the captain, Richard Phillips, hostage for several days on a sweltering lifeboat before Muse surrendered to seek medical attention aboard the USS Bainbridge for his hand.



FBI agents escort Somali pirate U.S. officials identify as Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse into FBI headquarters at 26 Federal Plaza, Monday, April 20, 2009, in New York. Muse is the sole surviving Somali pirate from the hostage-taking of commercial ship captain Richard Phillips. (AP)

The crew member who stabbed Muse said Tuesday that the teenager counted himself lucky to raid a U.S. ship and carried himself as the leader of the pirate gang.

"He was surprised he was on a U.S. ship. He kept asking, 'You all come from America?'" Then he claps and cheers and smiles. He caught himself a big fish. He can't believe it," said crewmember ATM "Zahid" Reza. Muse planned to demand at least

\$3 million, Reza said.

Reza said Muse told him it was his dream to come to America. "His dreams come true, but he comes to the U.S. Not as a visitor, but as a prisoner," Reza said.

Alfred P. Rubin, a professor of international law at Tufts University who wrote a book on piracy, said there had not been a major pirate prosecution in the United States since 1885, when the American ship Ambrose Light was attacked by pirates.

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Iran sends mixed signals to U.S. by jailing reporter



Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks during a press conference after the opening of the Durban Review Conference (UN's Conference against Racism) at the European headquarters of the United Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, April 20, 2009. The Durban Review Conference, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, will evaluate progress towards the goals set by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. Associated Press

ALI AKBAR DAREINI
Associated Press Writers
TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The Obama administration is reaching out to Iran. In return, Iran is — well, it's complicated.

The Islamic republic sentenced an American journalist to eight years in prison and launched a fervent new campaign to brand U.S. ally Israel as racist. And in the middle of all that, it said it was ready for a new beginning in relations with the U.S. after three decades of diplomatic stalemate. The mixed messages and flip-flopping are evidence of a tug-of-war within Iran's ruling class between those who want to move closer to Washington and those resisting the change, all tremendously complicated by June 12 presidential elections. Both domestic and international considerations play strong roles. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who is running for another term, is a deeply polarizing figure who has called for Israel to be wiped off the map, denied the Holocaust and insists Iran will never give up uranium enrichment.

On Monday at a U.N. anti-racism conference, he called Israel "most cruel and repressive racist regime," prompting diplomats from every European Union country to walk out, drawing condemnation from Israel — and earning him a hero's welcome at Tehran's airport Tuesday, with hundreds of well-wishers offering bouquets of flowers.

On April 11 he announced the opening of a new plant for developing uranium fuel and said Iran has increased the number and quality of centrifuges at its uranium enrichment facility, though U.S. officials expressed doubt about the latter claim.

And yet only days earlier, Ahmadinejad responded to a U.S. offer for better relations by saying, "The Iranian nation welcomes a hand extended to it should it really and truly be based on honesty, justice and respect" — an unusually conciliatory tone for the Iranian leader.

Nowhere are the divisions laid more bare than in the case of 31-year-old Roxana Saberi, accused of spying for America in charges that Washington calls baseless. Saberi was convicted last week by the Revolutionary Court after a closed-door trial that her father said lasted about 15 minutes. The development was seen as posturing by Iran's ruling clerics, who don't want to appear to be conceding to U.S. pressure as the two countries edge toward the negotiating table.

But since then, Iran appears to be steadily backing off. Ahmadinejad made a highly unusual request this week to Tehran's chief prosecutor to allow Saberi and a jailed Canadian-Iranian blogger the chance to fully defend themselves. The judiciary chief ordered a full investigation of the American's case during the appeal. And on Tuesday, the judiciary spokesman said Saberi's sentence might be reconsidered on appeal — a hint that her sentence could be commuted.

Ahmadinejad could have his eye on the election as he softens his stance on Saberi. Though he has the backing of powerful hard-liners, his popularity is waning among voters who say he spends too much time slamming the U.S. and Israel and not enough trying to fix the economy, which suffers from high inflation and unemployment.

His top opponent is former Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi,

a reformist who supports better ties with the United States and appeals to many younger voters, 40 percent of the electorate.


"Ahmadinejad is in an awkward position because his hard-line political backers are averse to warming relations with the U.S., yet he has to appeal to a young electorate which overwhelmingly favors restoring relations with Washington," said Karim Sadjadpour of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in the U.S. capital.

Ahmadinejad is also trying to gain favor with Washington, which broke off ties after Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. The U.S., along with major European countries and China, have invited Iran to a new round of nuclear talks, which could provide a forum for Washington and Tehran to begin broader discussions.


"His intervention is a political decision aimed at paving the way to resume ties with the U.S. and get concessions from Washington," legal affairs expert Saleh Nikbakht said in Iran.

Iran's nuclear program has been the most contentious issue between the two nations. Washington believes it is secretly aimed at building nuclear weapons; oil-rich Iran says it's for generating electricity. Iran has repeatedly refused to stop enriching uranium despite three rounds of sanctions from the U.N. Security Council.

As for Saberi, some analysts say Iran is holding her as a card in a complex political game, expecting concessions from Washington in return for her release. U.S. officials have indicated Iran would gain U.S. goodwill if the Iranians "responded in a positive way" to their demands to free the journalist.




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PG-13

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Increase in odd names leads DR to consider ban

RAMON ALMANZAR

Associated Press Writer

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Names like "Dummy Ruiz" and "Dear Pineapple" may become a thing of the past in the Dominican Republic as officials consider a ban on odd names.

Officials say Dominicans are increasingly giving their children names that are car brands, cartoon characters or even body parts, and a judge has submitted a proposal limiting such names to the Central Electoral Commission.

Examples of strange names in the nation's civil registry include Mazda Altagracia, Toshiba Fidelina, Seno Jimenez (Breast Jimenez), Querida Pina (Dear Pineapple),

Tonton Ruiz (Dummy Ruiz) and Querido Familia Perez (Dear Family Perez).

Other names put a spin on the famous, like Winston Churchill de la Cruz or Ernesto Che Perez, the latter a nod to the late Latin American revolutionary Ernesto Che Guevara. Others refer to drugs, such as Rambo Mota (Rambo Pot).

Electoral commission judge Jose Angel Aquinas, who submitted the proposal, wrote that names should be rejected that are confusing or that give no indication of gender.

He added that vulgar names, those having more than three words or those difficult to pronounce (unless they are of children born to foreigners) should be banned.

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Israel wants to buy U.S. missile defense system



Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak attends the first cabinet meeting of Benjamin Netanyahu's new government in Jerusalem Sunday, April 5, 2009. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says his new government will soon present its agenda on Mideast peace talks and defense issues. Associated Press

STEVE WEIZMAN
 Associated Press Writer
 JERUSALEM (AP) — Defense Minister Ehud Barak hopes to buy a U.S. missile defense system to protect Israeli towns from short-range rockets and mortar fire, defense officials said Tuesday. Barak plans to ask U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates to sell Israel the Vulcan-Phalanx cannon and radar system when he visits Washington in June, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity as the

request has not yet formally been made. The Vulcan-Phalanx — manufactured by U.S. company Raytheon Co. — is to be integrated into a multilayer defense umbrella that will include Israel's Iron Dome and two other missile systems being developed with the United States, the officials said. During Israel's recent military offensive into the Gaza Strip, Palestinians there fired rockets more than 28 miles into Israel. They continue to lob mortar

shells across the border. The defense ministry has been looking at anti-rocket systems since 2003 but put the search into high gear after the 2006 war with the Lebanese Hezbollah militia, when nearly 4,000 Katyusha rockets slammed into northern Israel. Iron Dome, under development by state-owned weapons maker Rafael, is meant to counter Hezbollah's Katyushas and the more primitive Qassam rockets fired from Gaza. The laser-based system is expected to be ready for

deployment next year. Rafael is also working with Raytheon to develop a system named "Magic Wand" against medium-range missiles. To meet long-range threats, such as an Iranian attack, Israel Aerospace Industries Ltd. and Chicago-based Boeing Co. are producing the Arrow missile, which has been successfully tested and partially deployed. The most advanced version, the Arrow II, was specifically designed to counter Iran's Shahab ballistic missile,

which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead. The Shahab-3 has a range of up to 1,250 miles, putting Israel well within striking distance. Israel sees Iran as its biggest threat, citing the country's nuclear program and its development of long-range ballistic missiles. Those fears have been compounded by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's repeated calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

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Iraq: No long-term role for ex-Blackwater units



BAGHDAD — Iraq's government spokesman insisted Tuesday that the former Blackwater Worldwide can have no long-term presence in the country and said authorities will continue to press for compensation for a deadly September 2007 shooting. Ali al-Dabbagh confirmed that the company — now known as Xe — will have a presence at least until summer in some ground and air protection roles, but gave no other details of when the last former Blackwater units could be out of Iraq. Iraq is currently making plans to take over some of the company's roles, such as

helicopter patrols, but needs at least until May 2010 to train local units. He said a "company will extend its work" to help protect Iraqi airspace until next year, but he later clarified that he was not referring to the former Blackwater. He did not say what company could serve in the stopgap role. "We do not want Blackwater to work in Iraqi airspace or land ... under one name or another," he said. "We will press for compensation." Some Iraqis wounded in the Sept. 16, 2007 shooting in Baghdad's busy Nisoor Square said they were dismayed to hear the company will

work in Iraq longer than previously thought. After the Nisoor Square melee, which left 17 Iraqis dead and another 20 wounded, Iraqi officials ruled that North Carolina-based Blackwater would be barred from operating in the country. Despite the ban, the State Department renewed Blackwater's contract seven months later, in April 2008.

In January of this year, Iraqi authorities denied the company an operating license. Hussein Jabir, a Baghdad lawyer hit by gunfire in Nisoor Square, says he was outraged at the Iraqi government for not taking a harder stance. "The Blackwater personnel are mercenaries. The Iraqi government knows that very well," said Jabir, who still has bullet fragments in his arm and side. The bloodshed strained ties between Iraq and the United States and raised questions about Washington's use

of private security in Iraq and other conflict zones. The State Department said this month that Xe guards would stop protecting U.S. diplomats on the ground in Baghdad on May 7, when the company's contract for that specific job expires and a new security provider, Triple Canopy, takes over. Last February, Blackwater changed its name to Xe — pronounced ZEE — in a bid to leave the stigma of the Nisoor Square shooting behind. State Department officials told The Associated Press that the company will remain in some areas of southern Iraq into the summer and that its aviation service, Presidential Airways, will provide air security for U.S. diplomatic convoys into September. Jabir said he plans to travel to the United States if the manslaughter charges against five former Blackwater guards proceed. In February, a federal judge denied two motions

to dismiss the case against the five men accused in the 2007 shootings. The five argue they are not subject to U.S. civilian criminal laws because they were working overseas under a contract with the State Department to help provide security for diplomats. "A case is proceeding in America, but I'm surprised our own government had not paid attention to the pain of the victims," Jabir said. Samir Hobi, a teacher wounded in the shooting, insisted that Iraqi authorities should seek direct compensation from the company. "No one is asking for our rights," he said. "The government doesn't care about us. This case no longer interests them." Sami Hawas Hamoud al-Iz, a vendor who was shot in the leg, also demanded that the company face trial in Iraq. "They should be punished," he said. "We pray to God that they will not escape justice."

Red cross

Continued from front page

The rebels said more than 1,000 civilians died Monday in a government raid, while the government said it rescued thousands after they broke through a barrier built by the insurgents that protects their last stronghold.

Human rights groups say the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are holding many people in the enclave against their will and using them as human shields. Those groups have also accused the government of indiscriminate shelling in the region. Both sides deny the allegations.

Thousands of civilians also fled in packed small boats, and they were picked up by navy patrols and transported to camps where Tamils who have escaped the war are being held. More than 2,000 people in about 100 boats

were picked up Monday.

The Red Cross said about 50,000 civilians were still stranded, while Human Rights Watch put the number between 50,000 and 100,000.

The U.S. government released satellite images Tuesday showing about 25,000 tents housing civilians squeezed into the last small strip controlled by the rebels, a coastal strip of about only 8 square miles (21 square kilometers). The State Department estimated about 125,000 people were in the conflict zone before the exodus over the past two days.

A worker for Doctors Without Borders said hundreds of wounded were arriving at her hospital in Vavuniya, south of the war zone, in government-arranged buses, and some had died en route. The hospital is overcrowded with 1,200 people being accommodated in a facility with only 400

beds, said mental health officer Karen Stewart, according to a statement from the aid group. U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres was concerned about the "dramatic situation" for civilians still in the war zone, said commission spokesman Ron Redmond.

"There are innocent civilians — women and children — caught in the middle of the conflict ... so the high commissioner is saying there should be a pause in the hostilities and the LTTE should allow civilians to leave," Redmond said.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara denied that 1,000 civilians died, saying 17 civilians were killed Monday by rebel shelling and by three suicide bombers.

"Our troops are rescuing the trapped civilians. It's the LTTE which is preventing civilians from fleeing," Nanayakkara



Pierre Kraehenbuehl, operations director of the international Red Cross (ICRC) gestures during a press conference at the organizations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Tuesday, April 21, 2009. The international Red Cross is warning that Sri Lanka's final offensive to crush Tamil rebels could dramatically raise the number of civilian deaths and says it is extremely worried about tens of thousands of people trapped with rebels in the northern war zone.

said. It was impossible to get independent accounts of casualties because journalists are restricted from the war zone.

The number of fleeing civilians made it clear that the government had vastly underestimated how many people were caught in the fighting.

Attorney: Chavez opponent seeks asylum in Peru

CARLA SALAZAR
Associated Press Writer
LIMA, Peru (AP) — A Venezuelan opposition leader who says he is a victim of political persecution by President Hugo Chavez's government has requested political asylum in Peru, one of his lawyers said Tuesday.

Manuel Rosales, a leading Chavez opponent, has been charged with corruption in Venezuela but says his trial there would not be fair. Lawyer Javier Valle-Riestra told The Associated Press the asylum request for Rosales was made in Peru on Tuesday. He said a group of Rosales' allies contacted him 10 days ago about the case. Rosales' political party is in contact with several "friendly countries" about possible asylum requests on his behalf, party leader Delsa Solorzano said.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Jose

Antonio Garcia Belaunde said earlier Tuesday that Rosales entered Peru as a tourist and had not yet requested asylum. If Rosales does request asylum in Peru, the government will evaluate his case, Garcia Belaunde told Colombia's Caracol radio.

Rosales, who lost a presidential race to Chavez in 2006, stepped down as mayor of Maracaibo, Venezuela's second-largest city, in March and went into hiding in response to harassment and fears he could be in danger, his party said. Prosecutors accuse Rosales of illegal enrichment between 2000 and 2004 while he was governor of Venezuela's western Zulia state. They are seeking his arrest, but a court has yet to approve the charge against him or decide if he should be detained while awaiting trial.

Rosales denies the accusation, calling it a "political lynching"

ordered by Chavez. Venezuelan Justice Minister Tareck El Aissami emphasized on Tuesday that Rosales is charged with corruption-related crimes, not "crimes of a political nature."

"If he doesn't appear before the appropriate courts, he would be a fugitive of justice, and as a result the court will activate mechanisms for his international capture," El Aissami told Venezuelan state television.

Solorzano, an ally and party leader, noted that no court has ordered Rosales' arrest and that he was still free to travel. She said it took some convincing by party leaders for him to agree to go.

"It was the best option due to the serious political persecution," she told The Associated Press.

Prosecutors say Rosales failed to show the legal source of about \$68,000 in income



Supporters of opposition leader Manuel Rosales march to support him in Maracaibo, the capital of Venezuela's Zulia state, Monday, April 20, 2009. Rosales is seeking political asylum abroad rather than face a corruption charges in a trial he says would be stacked against him, according to Omar Barboza who heads Rosales' political party. Rosales, who ran unsuccessfully against Chavez in the country's 2006 presidential election, has been accused of illegal enrichment between 2000 and 2004 when he was governor of Venezuela's western Zulia state.

Associated Press

several years ago while he was Zulia state governor. Rosales says he reported the earnings in his income taxes and that it came from his involvement in the agriculture business. He owns a cattle ranch in western Zulia state.

An attorney for Rosales

in Venezuela on Tuesday defended his client's decision to leave the country.

"He wasn't going to have a fair or clean or impartial trial," Alvaro Castillo said.

Venezuelans do not need a visa to enter Peru, and can stay as tourists for up to six months.

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NL Roundup

Pirates end Marlins' win streak

The Associated Press
PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ross Ohlendorf allowed two hits over seven innings during Pittsburgh's third shutout in four games and Nate McLouth drove in four runs as the Pirates ended Florida's seven-game winning streak, winning 8-0 on Monday night.

The Marlins began the night with a major league-best 11-1 record and were coming off three consecutive come-from-behind victories in their final at-bat in Washington. This time, they fell behind 1-0 in the first and never caught up during their first loss in seven road games.

Ohlendorf (1-2), finally getting some run support, won for the first time in eight starts since being traded to the Pirates by the Yankees last season.

Andrew Miller (0-1) took the loss.

Reds 4, Astros 3

At Houston, Joey Votto's two-run double in the seventh inning lifted the Reds over the Astros. Trailing 3-2, Paul Janish and Willy Taveras singled before Votto's hit helped the Reds win for the third time in four games.

Bronson Arroyo (2-1) allowed three runs and nine hits in seven innings. Arthur Rhodes got out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth by striking out Hunter Pence. Francisco Cordero then pitched the ninth for his fifth save in five tries.

Geoff Geary (0-2) took the loss.

Nationals 3, Braves 2

At Washington, highly touted

pitching prospect Jordan Zimmermann won his major league debut, throwing six strong innings in the Nationals' rainy victory over the Braves. Zimmermann (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits, with three strikeouts and a walk.

The paid attendance of 12,473 set a new low for the team since it moved from Montreal to Washington. Drizzles all afternoon and into the evening resulted in a delay at the start of 2 hours, 10 minutes. There was also a 33-minute delay in the eighth inning, and only dozens of fans were still around when Joel Hanrahan pitched the ninth to earn his first save in three chances.

Jesus Flores drove in two runs off Derek Lowe (1-1).

Matt Diaz homered for Atlanta.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 3

At Phoenix, Mark Reynolds homered and doubled, Miguel Montero added a three-run homer and the Diamondbacks defeated Colorado.

Reynolds hit a solo homer — his third — in the second inning and added an RBI double in the fourth off Jason Marquis (2-1).

Ian Stewart hit his third homer for the Rockies, who have dropped seven of eight to fall into a last-place tie with San Francisco in the NL West.

Jon Garland (2-1) went 6 2-3 innings, allowing one earned run and six hits. He walked two and struck out five.

Chad Qualls worked a perfect ninth for his third save in four chances.

In other NL games it was Arizona 6, Colorado 3; Washington 3, Atlanta 2; and Cincinnati 4, Houston 3.



Pittsburgh Pirates' Nate McLouth, right, rounds second base behind Florida Marlins shortstop Hanley Ramirez after hitting a three-run homer off Marlins pitcher Logan Kensing in the sixth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh on Monday, April 20, 2009.

Associated Press

NHL Playoffs

Capitals win to get back in series

The Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Ovechkin went a third game without a goal, but earned two assists for the second-seeded Capitals, who methodically posted a 4-0 victory over the No. 7 Rangers and got back into the Eastern Conference first-round playoff series Monday night.

Behind 33 saves from 20-year-old Simeon Varlamov, the Capitals cut the series



Washington Capitals' Alexander Semin, left, celebrates with Brian Pothier after scoring his second goal of the game in the first period against the New York Rangers during Game 3 of the Eastern Conference quarterfinals playoff hockey game Monday, April 20, 2009, at Madison Square Garden in New York. The Capitals won 4-0.

Associated Press

deficit to 2-1 — after a pair of home losses — and moved into position to level the best-of-seven matchup Wednesday night at Madison Square Garden.

Despite playing only six career NHL games, Varlamov made a surprise start in Game 2, after Jose Theodore was ineffective in the opener.

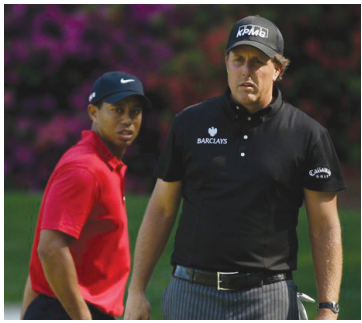
Ovechkin cut down on his shooting after recording 19 shots in the first two games and having another 17 attempts blocked, and showed off his passing skills. He earned assists on Alexander Semin's two goals in the first period and was on the ice when Brooks Laich added a power-play tally in the second. Former Rangers defenseman Tom Poti also scored a power-play goal with 1:25 left.

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Tiger Woods, left, walks behind Phil Mickelson on the 13th green during the final round of the Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga., Sunday, April 12, 2009.
Associated Press

Mickelson commits to Charlotte PGA Tour event

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) — Phil Mickelson is the latest player to commit to this month's Quail Hollow Championship. The tournament is still waiting on Tiger Woods. Mickelson and Trevor Immelman announced on Tuesday they'll compete at the Charlotte U.S. PGA Tour event

from April 30 through May 3. The field features nine of the top 14 in the world rankings.

Woods has until Friday to make a decision and traditionally waits until the last day. He last competed in Charlotte in 2007 and won.

The field also includes Sergio Garcia, Padraig Harrington, Vijay Singh, Camillo Villegas, Robert Karlsson, Steve Stricker, defending champion Anthony Kim and Jim Furyk.

Masters champion Angel Cabrera has also committed to play.

NBA Playoffs Allen leads Celtics over Bulls

BOSTON (AP) — Ray Allen landed the final blow in a memorable duel with Ben Gordon on Monday night, shooting the Boston Celtics back into their first-round series.

Allen made a tiebreaking 3-pointer with 2 seconds left and finished with 30 points, leading the Celtics a 118-115 win over the Chicago Bulls. Gordon nearly carried Chicago to a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series. He scored with 12.3 seconds left to tie it, the final hoop of his playoff career-high 42 points. Then Boston set up a play for Allen, who took a pass from Rajon Rondo and connected from the right side.

Allen scored 28 points after getting some advice from coach Doc Rivers at halftime. "Doc said going into the half, 'Be aggressive, but let it come to you,'" Allen said. "I never think I'm not in my rhythm. It can be a grind as a shooter. As a scorer you're always trying



Chicago Bulls center Joakim Noah (13) reacts after Boston Celtics guard Ray Allen (20) sank a 3-point shot in the closing second of the Celtics' 118-115 win in a first-round NBA basketball playoff game in Boston on Monday, April 20, 2009.
Associated Press

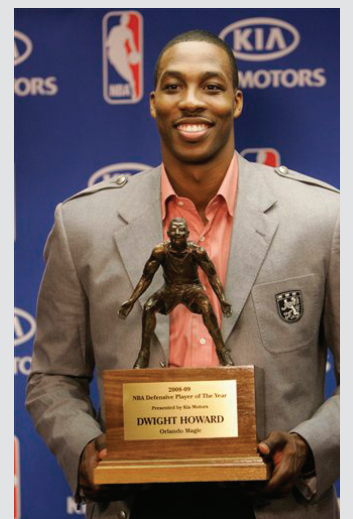
to find something." Allen and Gordon each had several clutch baskets in the second half as they battled for control of the game. After Tyrus Thomas missed a shot from midcourt as time expired, Allen headed for his bench where injured Kevin Garnett delivered a couple of congratulatory slaps — to his head and chest. Spurs 105, Mavericks 84. At San Antonio, Tony Parker had 38 points and eight assists to help the Spurs beat the Dallas Mavericks in Game 2 of their first-round playoff series. Dallas was trying to send the Spurs to consecutive home playoff losses for the first

time since 2002, but couldn't contain San Antonio's speedy point guard. Parker had 27 points in the first half. "I was just trying to be aggressive," Parker said. "It was a must win for us. Big game." Jason Terry finished with 16 points for Dallas, which suffered one of the worst losses in the playoff rivalry. Game 3 is Thursday in Dallas. The Mavericks beat the Spurs 105-97 on Saturday night for their first road playoff victory in three years. But it was hardly rare territory for San Antonio: The Spurs have come back to win four series after losing Game 1 since 2002.

Magic's Howard wins defensive player of the year

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
Associated Press Writer
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard is the NBA's defensive player of the year after becoming only the fifth player to lead the league in blocks and rebounds in the same season.

The announcement was made Tuesday. Howard received 542 points, including 105 first-place votes from a panel of 119 writers and broadcasters. Cleveland's LeBron James was second with 148 points and Miami's Dwyane Wade finished third with 90 points. The 23-year-old Howard is the youngest player to win the award. He led the Magic to 59 wins in the regular



Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard holds up the trophy after being named NBA basketball's defensive player of the year in Orlando, Fla., Tuesday, April 21, 2009. Howard led the NBA averaging 13.8 rebounds and 2.92 blocked shots per game.
Associated Press

season, one shy of tying the best record in franchise history set in the 1995-96 season. Orlando trails Philadelphia 1-0 in the first round of the playoffs. Howard averaged 13.8 rebounds and 2.9 blocks per game this season, his fifth in the league. The only other players to be rebounding and blocks champions in the regular season were Bill Walton, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon and Ben Wallace. Blocks were not kept as an official statistic until 1973. "To be the defensive player of the year at 23 is remarkable," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "To be a great defensive player usually comes later in a career. And he still has so much room for improvement." The award caps a remarkable year for Howard. He won gold as the center of the U.S. men's team at the Beijing Olympics, passed Wilt Chamberlain as the youngest NBA player to reach the 5,000-rebound mark and became an All-Star for the third time. Many saw this coming — just not so soon. Howard is five months younger than Alvin Robertson, who was 23 years and nine months old when he won the award with San Antonio in the 1985-86 season.

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Boston Red Sox's David Ortiz, right, hits a two-run triple in front of Baltimore Orioles' Gregg Zaun in the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 20, 2009, in Boston. Associated Press

Ortiz legs out triple as Red Sox top O's 12-1

BOSTON – Dustin Pedroia went 4-for-6 with three run-scoring singles and David Ortiz had a two-run triple to lead the Boston Red Sox to a 12-1 win over Baltimore, completing a four-game sweep of the Orioles in the Patriots' Day game Monday afternoon. Jason Varitek hit a solo homer and Jacoby Ellsbury had three hits to highlight Boston's season-highs in runs and hits (15).

The win was the fifth straight for the Red Sox, who won their sixth consecutive Patriots' Day game; and 27th in their last 33 at Fenway Park against Baltimore.

Boston led 3-1 before scoring three runs in the sixth and six in the seventh. The Orioles lost their fifth straight after a 6-2 start.

Justin Masterson (1-0), who replaced injured starter Daisuke Matsuzaka, held the Orioles to one run and four singles in 5 1/3 innings. He walked two and struck out three.

Cesar Izturis drove in Baltimore's run with an infield hit.

The Red Sox jumped on Mark Hendrickson (1-2) for a pair of first-inning runs before Fenway was filled on a chilly morning with its 476th straight sellout. Pedroia's RBI single made it 1-0 after Ellsbury reached for a double when his pop ticked off the glove of shortstop Izturis' glove in shallow left. Rocco Baldelli's groundout scored Pedroia.

Varitek's homer into the top of the Green Monster seats, where fans were turning around at times to see the Boston Marathon's runners make their way through Kenmore Square, made it 3-0. Pedroia's RBI single and Ortiz's triple off the left-center field wall, just past a lunging attempt by center fielder Felix Pie, made it 6-1 against reliever Dennis Sarfate in the sixth.

Mike Lowell had an RBI double and RBI single to go along with run-scoring singles by Ellsbury, Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis in the seventh.

Hendrickson gave up three runs, five hits, walked three and struck out six in six innings. He's 0-5 with an 8.05 ERA in eight career Fenway starts.

Baltimore third baseman Ryan Freel left the game in the third after getting hit in the head by Masterson's pickoff attempt at second. He was flat on his stomach for a few minutes before being helped to his feet and aided to the dugout by a pair of Orioles' trainers.

Red Sox left-hander Hunter Jones made his major-league debut and pitched a hitless ninth.

Baldelli left the game in the top of the fourth with a mild strained left hamstring.

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Líder opositor venezolano Manuel Rosales pide asilo en Perú



El abogado del alcalde de Maracaibo Manuel Rosales, habla en una conferencia de prensa en Caracas, sobre la solicitud de asilo político en Perú del líder opositor venezolano. REUTERS/Alejandro Rustom

LIMA (Reuters) - El líder opositor venezolano Manuel Rosales solicitó el martes asilo político en Perú por considerar que un juicio requerido en su contra está manipulado por el presidente Hugo Chávez, cuyo Gobierno

evalúa pedir su captura a nivel internacional.

Una de las cabezas más visibles de la oposición venezolana llegó a Lima la semana pasada junto a otras 20 personas, entre quienes están tres de sus hijos, que también adversan a Chávez y, de acuerdo al Gobierno peruano, su solicitud de asilo sería evaluada dentro de un trámite rápido.

Rosales, que se enfrentó a Chávez en las elecciones presidenciales del 2006, no ha aparecido públicamente en Perú, pero tendrá que presentarse en una o dos semanas frente a las autoridades para sustentar su solicitud de asilo.

El actual alcalde de la ciudad occidental de Maracaibo se ha mantenido clandestino desde marzo al denunciar hostigamiento de los organismos de seguridad, en medio del pedido de juicio por corrupción hecho por la Fiscalía venezolana y a cuya

audiencia preliminar no se presentó personalmente el lunes.

Rosales llegó a la capital peruana junto a un grupo de tres familias venezolanas que critican la "revolución socialista" de Chávez, según declaraciones a Reuters de una fuente cercana.

"Es una cacería", dijo Timoteo Zambrano, vice presidente del partido opositor venezolano Un Tiempo Nuevo (UNT), en una conferencia de prensa en un hotel de Lima en referencia a los motivos de la solicitud de asilo.

"Todos los poderes se han activado para cazar, linchar políticamente a un líder que

ha encausado al país por la senda democrática, por el camino electoral", agregó.

El canciller peruano, José Antonio García Belaunde, había dicho horas antes de que políticos cercanos a Rosales formalizaran la solicitud de asilo político que éste sería "un trámite bastante rápido".

La ministra peruana de Justicia, Rosario Fernández, refirió también previo a la solicitud que, en caso de que fuera presentada, su despacho evaluará el pedido teniendo en cuenta "las motivaciones que él (Rosales) exprese, los criterios que alega y las razones y motivos de venir aquí".

Según encuestas

Correa se encamina a fácil reelección en Ecuador

QUITO (Reuters) - El presidente de Ecuador, Rafael Correa, se encamina hacia una cómoda reelección en primera vuelta en los comicios generales del domingo, dijo el martes a Reuters uno de los principales encuestadores del país, según muestra su último sondeo.

El presidente de Cedatos-Gallup, Polibio Córdova, dijo que el mandatario izquierdista conserva un amplio margen de ventaja sobre sus principales contendores, el ex presidente Lucio Gutiérrez y el magnate bananero Alvaro Noboa.

"En la encuesta se ratifica la alta probabilidad de que el presidente gane en la primera vuelta, porque la diferencia con el segundo y tercer lugar va mucho más allá de los 10 puntos mínimos", dijo Córdova, cuyas encuestas han sido acertadas en anteriores comicios. Córdova declinó dar detalles del estudio hasta su publicación oficial.

Correa, un ex ministro de Economía que se declara socialista, es muy popular entre la mayoría pobre del país gracias a sus programas sociales y su retórica contra las "corruptas

élites" político-económicas que asegura arruinaron a la nación andina.

El lunes, su Gobierno presentó un plan para recomprar con un fuerte descuento la deuda que dejó de pagar por considerar "ilegítima", decisión que según el Gobierno es respaldada por la mayoría de los ecuatorianos.

Electo hace más de dos años, el economista con estudios en Estados Unidos y Europa ha logrado cierta estabilidad política pese a la complicada situación económica, luego de que sus tres predecesores fueran derrocados por protestas callejeras y parlamentarias en el mayor exportador mundial de banana. Correa necesita al menos el 40 por ciento de los votos válidos y una ventaja de 10 puntos porcentuales sobre su más cercano rival para ganar en primera vuelta.

En el anterior sondeo de Cedatos, publicado a principios de abril, Correa tenía un 49 por ciento de la intención de voto, mientras que Noboa y Gutiérrez lograron el 13 y el 15 por ciento respectivamente.

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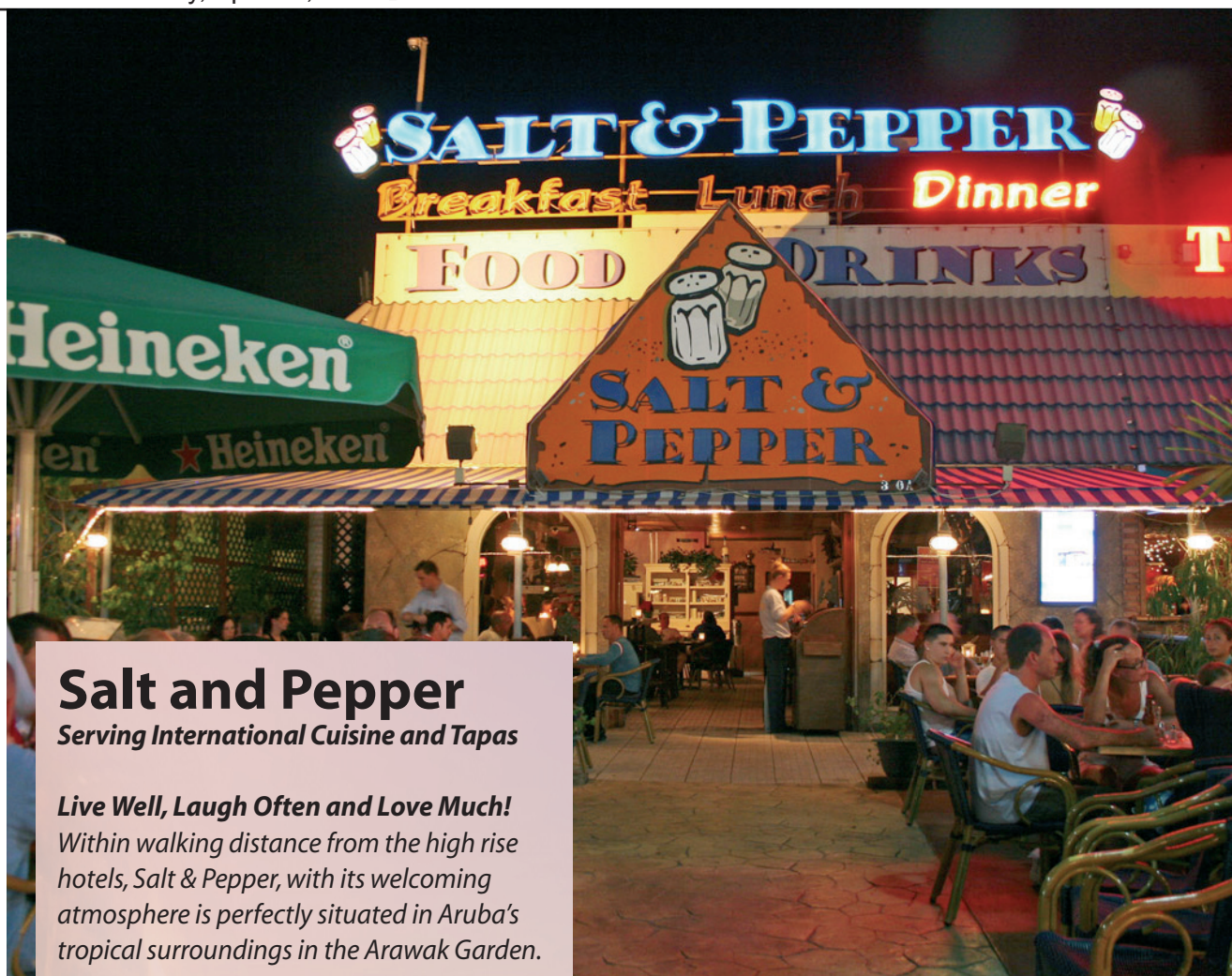
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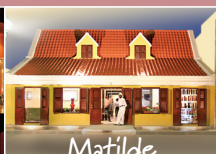
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